



# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

### General Waiver

<b>SUBJECT</b>  Request by <b>Pleasant Valley Elementary School District</b> to waive <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement to allow full day kindergarten programs at two out of ten elementary schools, <b>Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School and El Descanso Elementary School</b> .  Waiver Number: 17-7-2004	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Action</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Consent</b>
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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approval  Approval with conditions  Denial

For one year with the condition that the district submit an evaluation of the program before a renewal is considered.

### **SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved similar waivers in the past.

### **SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

The Pleasant Valley Elementary School District requests a waiver of EC Section 37202, in order to implement full day kindergarten programs at two out of ten of their elementary schools, Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School and El Descanso Elementary School (a Title One school). The kindergarten classes usually operate at 200 minutes per day but the two schools included in this waiver will now operate at 300 minutes a day. The schools are operating at different levels according to the configuration of the school.

The district wants to increase student achievement by providing increased instructional time to kindergarten students. Research shows that increasing the amount of instructional time for kindergarten students means that children will learn more than their counterparts in half day kindergarten programs. In their proposal, the district has referenced studies that cite the benefits of extended day programs such as "Successful Outcomes of Full-Day Kindergarten: More Positive Behavior and Increased Achievement in the Years After," by J. Cryan et al, published in the *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* 7 (1992). As Title One schools, the district is striving to improve the academic success of students.

Pleasant Valley has an open enrollment policy in place, and has notified all of their school site councils about the extended day kindergarten via a letter to the parents. The school board has adopted the Early Primary Program (see attached resolution) at their August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and will provide developmental appropriate activities for these students.

Therefore, the department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that the district submit an evaluation of the program before a renewal is considered.

**Authority for Waiver:** *Education Code* (EC) Section 33050

**Period of request:** August 1, 2004 to June 17, 2005

**Local board approval date(s):** July 15, 2004

**Public hearing held on date(s):** July 15, 2004

**Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s):** July 13, 2004

**Name of bargaining unit/representative(s) consulted:** Suzann Zeigler

**Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):**

Neutral                       Support                       Oppose

Comments (if appropriate):

**Public hearing advertised by (choose one or more):**

posting in a newspaper       posting at each school       other (specify)

**Advisory committee(s) consulted:** All school site councils

**Objections raised (choose one):**  None       Objections are as follows:

**Date(s) consulted:** July 12, 2004

**FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

The district will absorb any costs incurred.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.